

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented system for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

a storage medium stored therein a set of one or more meta-model elements, each of the one or more meta-model elements is each capable of being negotiated by two or more enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the two or more enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises, each of the one or more meta-model element ~~in the set comprising data describing a portion of a potential~~ standard for collaboration between the two or more enterprises;

a storage medium stored therein a meta-model negotiation service configured operable to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

provide the two or more enterprises access to the set of one or more meta-model elements;

receive selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model ~~elements;~~ elements between the two or more enterprises;

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the two or more enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the two or more enterprises for to enable collaborations between the two or more enterprises according to the standard for collaborations ~~reflected~~ in the negotiated meta-model.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is configured operable to communicate the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software configured ~~being operable~~ to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

3. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein each of the one or more meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 4, wherein ~~[[a]]~~ each of the one or more meta-model ~~element~~ elements specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;
and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the set of the one or more meta-model elements is specified in a template.

7. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

8. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the set of one or more meta-model elements.

9. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

10. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented method for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, the method performed using one or more computers, the method comprising:

receiving an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

providing the two or more enterprises access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each of the one or more meta-model elements ~~is element in the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and~~ incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the two or more enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises, each meta-model element ~~in the set~~ comprising data describing ~~a portion of a potential~~ standard for collaboration between the two or more enterprises;

receiving selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

facilitating negotiation of the selected meta-model ~~elements~~; elements between the two or more enterprises;

incorporating negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicating the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 11, further comprising communicating the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software configured being operable to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

13. **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 11, wherein each of the one or more meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 14, wherein ~~[[a]]~~ each of the one or more meta-model ~~element~~ elements specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;
and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the set of the one or more meta-model elements is specified in a template.

17. **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

18. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the set of one or more meta-model elements.

19. **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

20. **(Original)** The method of Claim 11, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

21. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A computer-readable storage media embodied with software~~ Software for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, the software ~~embodied in computer-readable media and~~ when executed using one or more computer systems is configured operable to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

provide the two or more enterprises access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each of the one or more meta-model elements is element in the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the two or more enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises, each meta-model element ~~in the set~~ comprising data describing ~~a portion of a potential~~ standard for collaboration between the two or more enterprises;

receive selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model ~~elements;~~ elements between the two or more enterprises;

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, further configured operable to communicate the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software configured being operable to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the enterprises.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein each of the one or more meta-model elements within the set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

5 dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer-readable storage media of Claim 24, wherein ~~[[a]]~~ each of the one or more meta-model element elements specifying a collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;
and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with another system of record.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the set of the one or more meta-model elements is specified in a template.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

28. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the set of one or more meta-model elements.

29. **(Original)** The ~~software~~ computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

30. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~software~~ computer-readable storage media of Claim 21, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

31. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented system for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

means for receiving an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

means for providing the two or more enterprises access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, of the one or more meta-model elements is element in the set capable of being negotiated ~~by the enterprises and~~ incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the two or more enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises, each meta-model element ~~in the set~~ comprising data describing ~~a portion of a potential~~ standard for collaboration between the two or more enterprises;

means for receiving selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the two or more enterprises;

means for facilitating negotiation of the selected meta-model ~~elements;~~ elements between the two or more enterprises;

means for incorporating negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for collaborations between the enterprises; and

means for communicating the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

32-50. **(Canceled)**